
From: NC Gov. Cooper [no-reply@nc.gov]
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Subject: Form submission from: Contact Governor Cooper

Submitted on Thursday, January 25, 2018 - 10:14 pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 10.10.15.8

Submitted values are:

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Message
Good evening Governor Cooper,

"Sec. 5. Conservation of natural resources.

It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivisions to acquire and preserve park, recreational, and scenic areas, to control and limit the pollution of our air and water, to control excessive noise, and in every other appropriate way to preserve as a part of the common heritage of this State its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, openlands, and places of beauty.
(NC Const. art. XIV, § 5)"

I hope this email finds you well. Thank you for holding your firm stance on opposing offshore drilling along the North Carolina coast. I request that you similarly hold a position of strong opposition against the unwanted and expendable Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

As such, I am writing to you with extreme concern for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. As a resident of Johnston County, the proposed pipeline would pass within just miles of my community, bringing unnecessary, permanent infrastructure for a limited resource in natural gas that has yet to be proven available to NC by Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC. I have reached out to ACP, LLC multiple times asking for proof of need and what exactly warrants the ACP, but, unsurprisingly to no avail. While a compressor station is planned for Northampton County, which in itself would potentially release unsafe levels of ozone and benzene pollution, there is no other evidence of any taps to be installed in NC, meaning that NC would not benefit from this proposed pipeline at all. We would simply be used as a channel for others' benefit.

On this note, the proposed pipeline would target vulnerable communities and puts lower-income communities at risk. While Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC promises that the pipeline would be an economic boon and would bring jobs to these smaller, lower-income communities, they cannot guarantee that these residents would be the ones filling those jobs. The majority of those residents are likely not qualified to partake in intensive and environmentally invasive pipeline construction tasks. Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC simply has not provided an adequate amount of information and watching energy monopolies like Duke Energy and Dominion Energy roll over vulnerable communities and wrongfully invoke eminent domain.

That is to say, from a utilitarian perspective, this proposed pipeline would not benefit the greater good when the

locations with a pipeline running through their backyard may not even benefit from the natural gas! Eminent domain, at least from my limited understanding, should only be invoked when the land would be for public use. A school, hospital, or even the completion of the Interstate 540 loop in southern Wake and northern Johnston Counties, yes - I can see. But a unnecessary, dangerous, fracked gas pipeline that is a testament to fossilized thinking which is being proposed by a group that has been woefully inadequate in their review of environmental impacts? No - that would be an abhorrent disappointment as a citizen of North Carolina - a state of leaders, innovators, and thinkers.

Submitting to the lowly Atlantic Coast Pipeline would subject me, as a ratepayer of Duke Energy and a citizen of North Carolina, to decades of paying for this wasteful and unneeded pipeline as an undisclosed charge on my utility bills - on top of any other ludicrous tax hikes that Duke adds on, of course. As a young adult, I do not want to look forward to being locked into fossil-fuel based energy for the next several decades. If I were looking for a place to call home and to start my career, a North Carolina that submits to big energy and fails to protect its citizens from environmental injustice would be off of my list. However, a North Carolina that defends its lands and peoples and invests in innovative, renewable energy, is somewhere that I would invest my time and money. Once again, we are a state of thinkers and leaders, and submitting to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline does not reflect the moral values of North Carolinians.

As referenced in the block quote at the beginning of this email, this proposed pipeline violates the high standards we hold here in North Carolina for our natural environmental and resources. I have heard the slogan "NC: Nothing Compares," in reference to the outstanding tourism industry here in North Carolina. If the 401 certifications for air pollution and water quality are granted to Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC, then our state will certainly be comparable to other states that have lost their identity in the pursuit of profits in the energy sector. Let's keep North Carolina to where nothing compares - a state that leads by example and refuses to give in to poorly designed plans for big energy profit.

I am depending on you to represent the views of those in the path of this proposed pipeline. This proposed pipeline is not the right decision for North Carolina. I appreciate you taking the time to read through some of my thoughts and concerns on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Thank you.

Take care,
Andrew

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://governor.nc.gov/node/11/submission/28067>

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